

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02972 130400Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /037 W
-----130415Z 048010 /72-70

P R 130312Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3223
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2972

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS OVIP
SUBJ: KIM-HOLBROOKE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

1. ALTHOUGH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET MRS. KIM TAE-JUNG WHILE VISITING SEOUL, THEY DID EXCHANGE LETTERS. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF BOTH LETTERS.

2. FIRST, MR. KIM'S LETTER, DATED APRIL 9, 1977:
(BEGIN TEXT) DEAR SIR: THIS IS TO EXPRESS MY UTMOST RESPECT AND HEARTFELT GREETINGS TO YOU. I AM SURE, NOT ONLY I, BUT ALL THE KOREAN PEOPLE EXPECT YOU TO BE THE APOSTLE OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY, DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY ON THIS PART OF THE WORLD. ALTHOUGH NOT MANY PEOPLE COULD SPEAK OUT THE TRUTH IN KOREA, YOUR TORCHLIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN KOREA MAY COINCIDE THE ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF HUMANITY IN KOREA. WE ALL TRUST IN PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HE SAYS WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE TRUE AND ACTS ACCORDING TO WHAT HE SAID AS THE GREATEST CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON EARTH. HERE, I DO APPEAL TO YOU, SINCE WE HAVE A COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY AND JUSTICE. I WAS OVERWHELEMED BY THE GREAT STATEMENT OF YOU PREIDENT CARTER, SAYING THAT "SIMPLY BECAUSE AMERICA IS FREE, WE CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT
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OF FREEDOM ELSEWHERE."
PERSONALLY IN REGARD TO MY HUSBAND, MR. DAE-JUNG KIM, I WAS TOLD BY TWO OF HIS LAWYERS WHO RECENTLY INTERVIEWED HIM THAT HE LOOKS EXTREMELY PAINFUL AND SERIOUS BECAUSE OF HIS WORSENING SCIATICA, INFLAMATORY PAINS ON JOINTS OF HIS LEGS AND POSSIBLY SERIOUS KIDNEY TROUBLE, WITH SWOLLEN FACE, AND HARDLY ABLE TO STAND UP BY HIS OWN FEET. HIS TWO

FEET ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY PARALYZED AND HE SPEND SLEEPLESS NIGHT WITH BROKEN-NERVES STRAIN. SO FAR AFTER HE WAS IMPRISONED, I APPEALED TO PRESIDENT PARK, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE CHIEF OF THE PENITENTIARY, THE WARDEN ETC. RESPECTIVELY AND REPEATEDLY. HOWEVER, THESE ARE FLATLY REJECTED WITH NO RESPONSES, NEITHER PAROLED, NOR RELEASED IN SPITE OF APPARENT SERIOUSNESS OF HIS HEALTH. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY CLAIMED THAT ACCORDING TO THEIR REPORTS BY THEIR OFFICIAL PHYSICIAN, HIS HEALTH IS GOOD ENOUGH TO STAY IN JAIL. IN FACT, THEY HAVE NEVER MADE ANY PHYSICAL EXAMINATION BY X-RAY OR ANY BLOOD TEST AT ALL. IF THEY EVEN PRETENDED TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR OWN LEGAL PROCEDURES, THEY SHOULD HAVE MADE THESE PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS. I HEARD FROM HIM THAT HE WANTED SOME SPECIALISTS FOR HIM, BUT THEY NEVER LISTEN TO HIS VOICE; NOW I CANNOT BUT ASSUME THAT THE OFFICIAL PHYSICIAN AND LOWER OFFICIALS ARE TERRIFIED TO MAKE ANY CORRECT AND GENUINE TESTS AND REPORTS TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES AT ALL. TAKING FOR GRANTED THAT ONE OUT OF ONE HUNDRED, THEIR REPORT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, WHY WOULD THEY NOT ALLOW HIM TO SEE ANY AUTHORITATIVE SPECIALISTS AT THIS SERIOUS MOMENT OF HIS LIFE AGAINST OUR PETITION? I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT HIS LIFE ITSELF. IN EVERY AUTHENTIC SOURCE AVAILABLE, HE SEEMS TO BE UNDERGOING UNBEARABLE PAINS, SIMILAR TO ANY PHYSICAL MENTAL TORTURES. FRANKLY, I THINK, HE COULD NOT BEAR ANY LONGER, READY TO PREFER DEATH AND BEING MURDERED RATHER, THAN TO SURVIVE IN UNQUENCHABLE PAINS. I ONLY PRAY THAT HIS WILL BE DONE..
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SINCE WE KNOW OF YOU AS A DYNAMIC STATEMAN, OUR VOICES WILL BE HEARD BY YOUR GREAT PRESIDENT CARTER AS WELL AS TO FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD BY YOUR GREAT INSIGHT AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND. VERY RESPECTFULLY YOURS,(SIGNED) MRS. DAE-JUNG KIM (END TEXT).

3. SECOND, HOLBROOKE'S REPLY, DATED APRIL 11 AND HAND DELIVERED BY EMBOFF TO KIM HOUSE APRIL 12:
BEGIN TEXT)
DEAR MRS. KIM.
I REGRET I WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE YOU PERSONALLY DURING MY VERY BRIEF VISIT TO SEOUL. I WAS, HOWEVER, PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOU LETTER OF APRIL 9 ON ARRIVAL. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT I HAVE NOTED THE CONCERNS YOU EXPRESS AND THAT I WILL TAKE THEM BACK TOWASHINGTON WITH ME.
SINCERELY, (SIGNED) RICHARD HOLBROOKE.
P.S. BY THE WAY, I DID HAVE A CHANCE TO HAVE A VERY USEFUL TALK WITH MRS. LEE AND CHUNG IL HYUNG LAST NIGHT.
(END TEXT)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL02972
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770127-0527
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770461/aaaacayy.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2819982
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIM-HOLBROOKE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS
TAGS: PINT, OVIP, SHUM, KS, (KIM TAE-JUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/595035a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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